

LOG OF PHONE CALL

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Draft ASTM standard for edge binding components used in mattresses

DATE OF CALL: July 5, 2002

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SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME *WM*

NON-CPSC CALLER: Vince Diaz, President, Atlantic Thread & Supply Company, Inc.

SUMMARY OF CALL: Mr. Diaz reported on the status of his draft standard specification for edge binding components used in mattresses recently presented to ASTM E 05.15. The test method is intended to insure the integrity of the edge structure of the mattresses (edge binding, thread and barrier material). They have made changes in the protocol to increase the strength required of the mattress edge components. He expects the protocol to be submitted for subcommittee ballot on 7/9/02. Atlantic will be conducting further small- and large-scale validation tests this summer. They should have a good sense of correlation by the time a full committee ballot is issued in October. Suppliers could use the test method to assure mattress manufacturers that their components will perform appropriately in final products. He hopes to have a standard in place for CPSC consideration by January/February 2003.

In Mr. Diaz's opinion, if a California regulation is issued before CPSC completes rulemaking, manufacturers will see this as the national law because of liability concerns. They anticipate that the industry will be ready to meet the technical needs of California with thread and quilted barrier fabrics by the 3-4th Quarter 2002. By June 2003, they will be able to produce the volume of fire barrier fabrics/composites (23 million linear yards) needed to meet the California effective date in 2004. However, they will NOT be able to meet the 150 million linear yards needed for a national standard. He estimates the industry needs 18-30 months to ramp up production of materials for a national market. He also estimates that mid to upper range mattress market will not suffer from the price increase needed to cover the technical performance upgrade; but the lower end market will see the largest impact.

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